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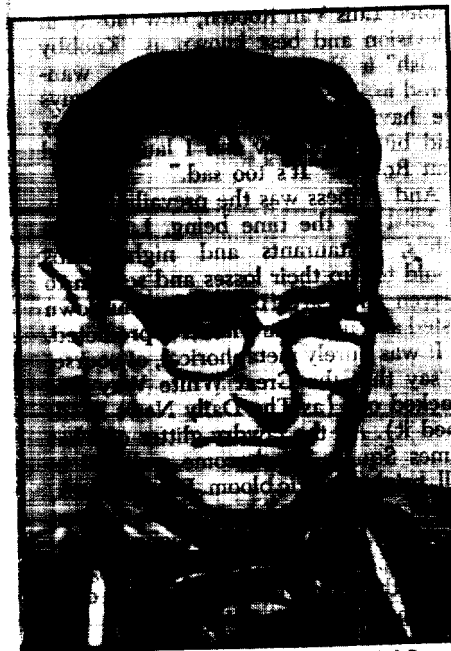
At pilot Powers' request . . .

Powers. And both letters came through the regular mails.

In his letters, Powers wrote that he is being treated well and fed abundantly. He is also permitted to take walks and sun baths, he said.

In neither letter did Powers go into any detail about what sort of fate the Russians may have in store for him. But he did indicate to Mrs. Powers, who has been in seclusion at her mother's home in Milledgeville, Ga., since the incident, that he knows he must stand trial on charges of spying. In fact, Powers wrote his wife that she should not try to visit him until after he is tried.

Powers' plea apparently persuaded



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Father Powers will stay home

the father, a 55-year-old farmer and shoe repairman, to call off his own plans to go to Russia and see his son. Sol Cury, a Norton, Va., merchant who has been advising the pilot's father, confirmed the story that Khrushchev had sent a cablegram to the elder Powers. In the cable, Cury said, Premier Khrushchev promised to do anything he could to help the father visit his son, but he added that he could do nothing to avert Powers' trial.

At any rate, said Cury, the elder Powers decided to postpone his trip to Russia—"until a time more advantageous to the son."

THE U-2 INQUIRY

Little Was Lost But . . .

Now, that the testimony was all in, the Senate Foreign Relations Committee turned this week to the problem of preparing a report on the U-2 incident and the subsequent breakup of the Paris summit conference.

For days, the committee had listened to the last round of witnesses—Allen W. Dulles, Central Intelligence Agency director; Dr. Hugh L. Dryden, deputy administrator of the National Aeronautics and Space Administration, and Defense Secretary Thomas S. Gates Jr.—looking for information, but taking pains to avoid partisan issues.

Backing down to the job of writing a report, chairman Fulbright realized he had a problem. A hard-hitting critical report would not win the unanimous committee endorsement Fulbright wanted; a weak report would be worthless. But whatever the final language of the report, committee members privately agreed on some conclusions:

►The information gathered by the U-2 over Russia during the past four years was useful to the defense of this country and the free world.

►The highest echelons of the Administration paid too little attention to the political hazards of such flights on the eve of the Paris conference.

►The Administration's conflicting statements immediately after the announced shooting down of the U-2 showed scant grasp of their own significance and a disquieting lack of coordination.

But the committee's broadest conclusion was this: Had it not been for the U-2 incident, there would have been a summit conference. Whether the conference would have produced anything was another question—for the belief is that Khrushchev for reasons of his own would have been forced to wreck it anyway. Thus, the committee agreed that little was actually lost in Paris, since the U-2 was obviously more the pretext than the cause for the deliberate Soviet smashup of the summit.

THE POWERS CASE:

Letters From a Spy

Ever since Francis Gary Powers and his high-flying U-2 observation plane went down inside Russia May 11, the Western world has anxiously awaited word from the American pilot. Premier Nikita Khrushchev said, of course, that Powers was "alive and kicking," but no Westerner had laid eyes on him. Russia turned down every State Department request to see him.

But Powers has been in communication with the outside world. It was learned this week. In fact, he has written letters to both his wife, Mrs. Barbara Gay Powers, and his father, Sol Cury.